FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 003 *5 January 1984*

ARGENTINA

Bill To Establish Wage Board Sent to Congress B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 4 Jan]
CGTRA Criticizes Government Salary Policy B 1
[LA PRENSA 4 Jan]
Radical Leader Asks Paraguay To Free Prisoners B 2
Experts Try To Identify 200 Exhumed Corpses B 2
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 4 Jan]

BOLIVIA

Envoy to U.S. Comments on Bilateral Relations C 1

CHILE

Opposition Leader on Repudiation of Violence E 1
New Security Measures Taken at Government House E 1
Court-Martial Sentences MIR Terrorist Commando E 2
Attack on Power Line Causes Blackout in Santiago E 3
Labor Leader Rodolfo Seguel Reports Death Threat E 3
Briefs: New Regional Intendant; New Navy Zone E 3
Commander; Relations Established With Brunei

PARAGUAY

Another MOPOCO Member Returns From Exile [ABC COLOR 4 Jan] H 1
Four University Students Lift Hunger Strike H 1

PERU

Shining Path Leader Admits Terrorist Activity J 1
Havana Cites Peruvian Communists on Anniversary J 1
Briefs: Foreign Debt Payment; Uranium Vein Discovered J 1

VENEZUELA

Lusinchi Reportedly Has 'Tentative Cabinet' L 1

PANAMA

De la Espriella Discusses Political Situation N 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

1984 Sugar Exports Estimated at 111,760 Tons P 1

COSTA RICA

New Justice Minister Sworn In 4 January P 1
Foreign Minister Optimistic on Contadora Group P 1
Officials Cited on Anti-Sandinist Activities [Managua] P 2
Havana Report P 2

GUATEMALA

Foreign Minister Discusses Stone's Visit P 3
President Refers to U.S. Ambassador's Absence P 3
[PRENSA LIBRE 4 Jan]
Deputy Foreign Minister on U.S. Measures P 3
[DIARIO EL GRAFICO 3 Jan]
Mejia Victores on Drafting of New Electoral Bill P 4
Social Christians on Provisional Presidency P 4
[DIARIO EL GRAFICO 4 Jan]
Havana Notes FUR Charges of Corruption P 4
Rebels Claim Responsibility for Attacks P 5
[PRENSA LIBRE 3 Jan]
Radio Terms Special Tribunals 'Aberration' P 5
[PRENSA LIBRE]
Briefs: New Deputy Minister P 6

EL SALVADOR

Death Squad-Linked Officers Being Sent Abroad P 6
MNR Charges Military Membership in Death Squads P 6
Military Order Issued on Elections Stance P 7
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 4 Jan]
FMLN Reports on El Paraiso Casualties, Prisoners P 8
Identifies Officers Killed [Farabundo Marti] P 8
Releases 100 Prisoners P 9
Releases 44 POW's [Farabundo Marti] P 9
Commentary on Bridge Destruction Urges Peace P 9
Urban Commandos Occupy Station, Air Message P 10
FMLN Alleges Air Force Attack on San Fernando [Venceremos] P 10
Air Attack on Chalatenango [Farabundo Marti] P 11
Havana on Rebel Actions, Army Morale, Losses P 11
Cites U.S. Official on Rebel Actions P 11
Notes U.S. Concern P 11
Army Battalion Abandons Positions P 12
Heavy Casualties Sustained by Army P 12
Cites Venceremos on Government Losses P 12

NICARAGUA

D'Escoto Protests Potosi Attack to Honduras P 12
State Security Chief Interviewed by Paris Paper P 13
[L'HUMANITE 21 Dec]
Editorial Scores U.S. Policy, 'Reactionaries' P 16
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 29 Dec]
State Council President on 1985 Elections P 17
Opposition To Join Debate on Election Bill P 18
FPR Leaders Discuss Role in Upcoming Elections P 18
Private Enterprise Council Issues Election Study P 19
[LA PRENSA 26 Dec]

Counterrevolutionaries Attack Ciudad Antigua P 23
Havana Reports on Attack P 23
Additional Havana Report P 24
Voice of Sandino Says Army Entered Costa Rica P 24

CUBA

Castro, Marchais Sign Joint C.A. Policy Statement Q 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Nicaragua Q 1
Commentary Notes Salvadoran Rebel Actions Q 2
Presence of Troops in Angola Discussed, Defended Q 2
Angolan President Sends Anniversary Message Q 3
Soviet Minister of Culture, Delegation Visit Q 3
Moscow Reports Visit [cross-reference] Q 3
Visit by Spanish Foreign Minister Announced Q 3
Canadian Fisheries Minister Arrives on Visit Q 4
Cited on Bilateral Relations [AFP] Q 4
Briefs: New Sri Lanka Ambassador Q 4

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Jorge Blanco Notes 1983 Achievements R 1
[LISTIN DIARIO 24 Dec]
PLD Reorganizes General Secretariat, Committee R 1
[LISTIN DIARIO 24 Dec]

CARIBBEAN

OECS Meeting Set for 13 January in Grenada S 1
Trinidadian Named Caricom Deputy Secretary S 1

ANTIGUA

Ramphal Says Stage Set for Aid to Grenada S 1

BAHAMAS

Corruption, Drug Smuggling Commission Reconvenes S 2
Nottage To Testify S 2

BARBADOS

Line of Credit Agreement Signed With Canada S 3

JAMAICA

Seaga Vows To Rid Kingston of Band of Criminals S 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

Foreign Minister To Visit Suriname 26-27 Jan V 1

ECUADOR

Havana Cites President Hurtado on Relations V 1
Sales Problems Lead To Search for Oil Markets V 1

BILL TO ESTABLISH WAGE BOARD SENT TO CONGRESS

PY041757 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The Executive branch yesterday announced it has sent Congress a bill proposing the reestablishment of the National Minimum Wage Board, whose objective will be to guarantee the maintenance of real wages as well as the "gradual and constant increase in the purchasing power" of workers.

The presidential bill calls for the board, originally initiated by the Arturo Illia administration but phased out some 10 years ago, to be made up of labour union and business representatives as well as Labour and Economy Ministry officials.

The proposal adds that the board be set up within 180 days after the bill becomes law and grants the President final approval of the board members who would serve two-year, renewable terms. Moreover, the members would have to fulfil the same requirements demanded of national congressional deputies and "show knowledge in labour and economic issues."

In addition, labour representatives would be chosen by union confederation such as the General Labour Confederation (CGT), while "the most representative business groups" would select delegates from their sector.

Minimum wages fixed by the board would not be retroactive under the proposals, and their determination would take into account the cost of living index regularly prepared by the National Institute of Statistics and Census.

Finally, a presidential message sent along with the text of the bill mentions the need "to promote the active participation of workers in public and semi-public entities studying the socio-economic problems" of the nation.

Meanwhile yesterday, the President signed into law a bill ruling that the half-year bonus be calculated at 50 percent of the highest monthly wage paid out during the six months under consideration.

CGTRA CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT SALARY POLICY

PY042025 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] After a noon meeting yesterday, the executive council of the CGT-Brasil [General Labor Confederation headquartered on Brasil Street], which is also known as CGTRA [General Labour Confederation of the Argentine Republic], released a statement shortly after 1500. In its statement, the labor organization says that "an impartial evaluation of the salary policy designed by the constitutional government reveals that it continues to be the same as it was under the military regime, that is, while salary readjustments fall short of price hikes, workers are not consulted in establishing salary and working conditions, contrary to the common practice of democracies throughout the world."

The labor organization goes on to say that "while the price of a family's market basket and utility rates continue to rise in the face of the government's inability to control them, which allows speculators to profit on the elementary needs of the people, salaries are established in an authoritarian way by officials who do not take workers' interests into account."

"The recently granted 12-percent readjustment," it adds, "is awful. It is impossible to understand how such an important issue as the purchasing power of salaries, which is essential for raising demand, reactivating the productive apparatus, and reducing unemployment should be addressed so callously."

It concludes by saying that "we once again reiterate our legitimate demand that labor-management commissions be urgently convened within the framework of Law No 14,250, so that workers may freely discuss salaries and improved working conditions. We demand that a minimum, readjustable salary proportionate to the price of a family's market basket and to utility rates be enforced as of 1 January 1984, as was promised by the government through the labor minister. We want solutions within democracy, in order to maintain democracy." The statement is signed by CGTRA Secretary General Saul Ubaldini.

RADICAL LEADER ASKS PARAGUAY TO FREE PRISONERS

PY041409 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0125 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (TELAM) -- Cesar Jaroslavsky, president of the Radical Civic Union National Deputies bloc, has sent a telegram in the name of his bloc to Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner requesting the immediate release of a group of political prisoners on a hunger strike. The request was made -- in keeping with concern for the life and freedom of all people in the Americas -- in favor of Monica Perez, Casta Elizeche, Ernesto Heisecke, Cayetano Quatrocchi, and Escolastico Ovando.

EXPERTS TRY TO IDENTIFY 200 EXHUMED CORPSES

PY042220 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Jan 84 p 7

[Excerpt] La Plata -- Forensic experts yesterday tried to identify about 200 bodies exhumed from NN (no name) graves in Buenos Aires province cemeteries over the last two weeks.

One of the experts said, meanwhile, that some of the NN corpses found at the Santa Teresita beach early in 1980 had shattered skulls and broken bones "from the neck down to their feet, as though they had been thrown into the sea from an aircraft."

Other sources confirmed that none of the relatives of missing union leader Oscar Smith recognized the unidentified remains disinterred at the Magdalena Cemetery last Friday. The sources said that an undetermined number of the 200 corpses were taken to the San Martin General Hospital owing to lack of space at local facilities.

Many of the corpses are just skeletons, often in an advanced state of decay, and forensic experts said it would be difficult to positively identify most of them without the help of additional data.

The Buenos Aires Radical caucus also announced that last Thursday provincial deputy Nestor Firpo filed a writ with San Isidro Judge Sordelli Carreras, charging that the bodies of several people aged between 25 and 35 were buried in October 1976 within large metal drums at the San Fernando Cemetery, but the gravedigngers did not report this "during the military regime for fear of retaliation."

Meanwhile, bad weather made it impossible to go ahead as planned with the exhumation of about 22 NN bodies at the General Lavalle Cemetery. The task will be carried out next Tuesday morning.

ENVOY TO U.S. COMMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

PY041910 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Mariano Baptista Gumucio, Bolivian ambassador to the United States, has said that the State Department does not object to the presence of Communists in the regime installed in October 1982. In remarks to Radio Panamericana, the Bolivian diplomat said that the U.S. Government and people are aware that the current Bolivian Government was elected by the people.

Baptista Gumucio made the following remarks to Radio Panamericana:

[Begin Gumucio recording] The State Department's position is well known in the sense that the Bolivian situation is the result of an electoral process in which the Communist Party participated and won within a coalition, and that this party won that position democratically. As long as the democratic institutions are maintained, the U.S. Government does not object to the Communist presence. [end recording]

With reference to other issues, Baptista Gumucio said that the image of the country with regard to suppression of drug trafficking has improved considerably recently.

[Begin recording] [Gumucio] This is so because positive actions can be seen. Joint efforts are being carried out in important operations. Therefore, although there are still problems, and drug trafficking has by no means been eliminated, there is the willingness to combat it. Therefore, there is a clear tendency toward understanding between the two governments.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your evaluation of the Bolivian situation?

[Gumucio] I have just arrived, so I cannot say. I trust it is normal. [end recording]

Ambassador Baptista Gumucio will meet with President Hernan Siles Zuazo and Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado to evaluate the embassy's achievements. Baptista Gumucio will remain in the country for only a few days.

[Begin Gumucio recording] I believe I have been very fortunate. I have been well received. I have excellent relations with the State Department and international organizations. As you know, we concluded the year with the signing of agreements for $50 million with the IDB. Relations with other organizations are also normal, but details on such matters can be obtained from the ministries that maintain relations with these organizations. [end recording]

OPPOSITION LEADER ON REPUDIATION OF VIOLENCE

PY042010 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Andres Zaldivar, president of the World Union of Social Democrats, has noted that we must find a political opening whereby everyone must be willing to change his position if we are to return to democracy. The high-ranking leader of the World Union of Social Democrats also noted that Chileans will confront a very hard year in 1984 for socioeconomic reasons. Zaldivar held a press conference today during which he was asked about the problems brought about by terrorism and violence.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] We have always expressed our repudiation of violence from any source. We shall continue to uphold this position. We reject all kinds of terrorism, whether it is that practiced by the government through its security organizations or that practiced by other violent sectors, such as the Carabineros. We uphold a very clear position in this regard. [end recording]

The Christian Democratic leader added:

[Begin Zaldivar recording] Of course, violence has its reasons. Frequently violence by one sector evokes a violent reaction from another sector. But this does not justify the practice of terrorism or violence.

However, the people are being subjected to permanent tension, and this results in violence. I believe that this is the most serious issue that the nation is confronting today since -- because of social, economic, and political pressures -- the rope may break and there may be a great national confrontation. [end recording]

On the economic situation, Zaldivar said that the statements issued by the economic leadership do not show that there will be an economic reactivation.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] I believe that the fact that there are no prospects for an economic recovery is causing more anguish to Chileans. Whoever has listened to Finance Minister Caceres and later to General Pinochet can only conclude that 1984 will be just as bad or even worse than 1983. This is mainly because the economic proposals made by Finance Minister Caceres solve absolutely nothing. If these proposals are fruitful we shall experience at best the same conditions as those of 1983. [end recording]

On General Pinochet's year end message, Zaldivar said:

[Begin Zaldivar recording] He again attacked opposition sectors unjustly. He accused us of something so absurd as ambitions for power. But I believe that this is the other way around because they are the ones who covet power, those who -- despite the dramatic situation the country is confronting -- are not willing to revise their position, (?or in some cases) to abandon to accept less power. [end recording]

Asked what would be the solution in view of the present situation, Zaldivar answered:

[Begin Zaldivar recording] The only logical thing would be to seek a short-term political solution.

But we must be specific in noting that a political opening should lead to real democracy, that it should be a political opening in which all sectors whould be willing to give up certain positions, one in which there should be on deadlines that cannot be changed or persons who cannot be replaced, if national interests so demand. I truly believe that because national interests are jeopardized in 1984, all persons should be willing to revise their positions so as to avoid violent, regrettable situations. [end recording]

Finally, Zaldivar noted that the Democratic Alliance [AD] should continue striving to unite the opposition sectors in order to achieve a political opening as soon as possible, because this will lead to a completely peaceful transition.

NEW SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

PY041905 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Relay by Armando Castro]

[Text] Since approximately 1130 this morning, the doors of the La Moneda Government Palace have been half closed. It has been reported that security is the reason for this unusual situation. This is the first time that such an unusual decision has been made since President Pinochet reinstalled government offices in the Moneda Palace after its restoration. The closing of the doors was ordered by the military household chief, Colonel Sergio Valerino.

Through the Presidential Secretariat, the military household chief informed journalists that there have been no terrorist threats from terrorists,or others or any anonymous telephone calls. He added that this measure was taken in view of recent attacks that have been carried out in several other countries.

It was added in this regard that special security measures have been taken at the White House in Washington.

Moreover, spokesmen have noted that a special barrier will be built in front of the main door of Government House. But it was not specified when this work will start or for how long the doors will remain half closed.

COURT-MARTIAL SENTENCES MIR TERRORISTS COMMANDO

PY041415 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The members of a terrorist commando have been sentenced by a court-martial to 25 years in prison for manufacturing explosives, illegal possession of arms, and setting fire to a Carabineros bus.

The court-martial confirmed a sentence by the Santiago military district judge, Major General Osvaldo Hernandez. Those sentenced members of the outlawed MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] include (Fernando Alvarez Sanchez), (Alejandro Leiva), (Juana Rosa Aguilera Jaramillo), and (Luisa Pena Cardenas).

(Sanchez) was sentenced to 5 years and 1 day for manufacturing explosives and to 15 years and 1 day for illegal possesion of arms; (Leiva) was sentenced to 6 years and 1 day for manufacturing bombs and to 4 years and 1 day for illegal possesion of arms. The women received sentences ranging from 102 days to 5 years and 1 day.

ATTACK ON POWER LINE CAUSES BLACKOUT IN SANTIAGO

PY041837 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 4 Jan (AFP) -- A heavily populated sector of the city was left in darkness for several hours last night when a power line was blown up by a dynamite charge placed by unidentified persons. The blackout, which affected the neighborhood of San Miguel, in the southern part of Santiago, lasted until dawn.

LABOR LEADER RODOLFO SEGUEL REPORTS DEATH THREAT

PY041137 Paris AFP in Spanish 0027 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Chilean union leader Rodolfo Seguel today reported that he has received death threats from a self-styled Area 16 Boa commando, and that he has informed Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa about the threats. Seguel said: I wrote the interior minister not out of fear but because I want to testify on the existence of an autonomous commando group whose members can be identified.

He said that the objective of the letter to Minister Jarpa is to ask if anything can be done to protect union and political leaders who are in a situation as dangerous as that of Tucapel Jimenez in the past. Jimenez, a top public servants' leader, was murdered 2 years ago in a rural area 30 km from Santiago. His murderers have not yet been identified.

Seguel, who headed the first protest action against the Chilean military regime in May and June 1983, said that beyond all doubt the threats were made by those who have orchestrated smear and slander campaigns against him through the press. If something happens to me, he noted, the responsibility must be placed on those people.

Among others, Manuel Bustos, the leader of the National Union Coordinating Board (CNS), and Enrique Silva Cimma, leader of the Democratic Alliance -- an opposition coalition -- have also received similar threats.

BRIEFS

NEW REGIONAL INTENDANT -- Vice Admiral Luis de los Rios Echeverria, retired, has been confirmed as intendant of the 5th Region. [Excerpt] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Jan 84 PY]

NEW NAVY ZONE COMMANDER -- Vice Admiral Sergio Sanchez Luna has assumed his duties as commander of the First Navy Zone in Valparaiso. He will also be general commander of the Valparaiso garrison. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84 PY]

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH BRUNEI -- Chile and Brunei have established diplomatic relations as of 1 January 1984. The negotiations for the establishment of bilateral relations were carried out through the Chilean Embassy in Singapore. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Jan 84 PY]

ANOTHER MOPOCO MEMBER RETURNS FROM EXILE

PY041704 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 14

[Text] Anibal Abbatte Soleil, member of the executive board of the Colorado Popular Movement (MOPOCO), yesterday arrived on Varig Airlines accompanied by his three daughters. He was welcomed at the international airport by MOPOCO members headed by Miguel Gonzalez Casabianca.

Abbatte said: "I am returning to my dear country after nearly 25 years, and the emotion that I feel cannot be explained because when I was forced to leave I was single, and now I am returning with three of my four children who were born in Brazil, a country which kindly sheltered us." He added: "I am returning with the same aspirations as the other party members who preceded me -- without hate but without relinquishing our republican principles -- to contribute my efforts to the achievement of total democracy under equal conditions for all Paraguayans, particularly for those who are still outside the country."

Emilio Reynal, a former member of the Paraguyan Confederation of Workers and a MOPOCO member, will return on a Varig flight today. Waldino Ramon Lovera, also a MOPOCO member, will arrive next Friday.

FOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LIFT HUNGER STRIKE

PY041545 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The four students in the Hospital de Clinicas have lifted their hunger strike after 52 days, according to the hospital director, Isaias Fretes. Ernesto Heisecke, Cayetano Quatrocchi, Monica Perez, and Pelusa Elizeche are now starting a slow process of recovery. The hospital director estimates that the Catholic University students will stay in the hospital another week. They are being held for allegedly violating Law 209 [Defense of Public Peace and Security].

SHINING PATH LEADER ADMITS TERRORIST ACTIVITY

PY041730 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 84

[From the "24 Hours" program]

[Text] Engineer Antonio Diaz Martinez, accused of being the ideologist of the Shining Path organization, has admitted participating in a number of subversive activities, according to the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP].

Diaz Martinez, captured in Huaraz last month, was transferred to the court's detention room. He will go through a number of judicial proceedings at the 16th criminal court on the charge of alleged responsibility for terrorist acts.

The PIP reported today that Diaz Martinez is known among Shining Path members as Comrade Alonso. The PIP also reported that he had been in contact with German citizen (Renata Herr), who was also detained in Arequipa for participating in terrorist actions.

HAVANA CITES PERUVIAN COMMUNISTS ON ANNIVERSARY

PA050349 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] sent a congratulatory message to Cuba on the occasion of another anniversary of the victorious Cuban revolution, noting Cuba's successful advance toward socialism while combating imperialist aggression on all fronts. The party announced that it will celebrate the occasion with a special function at its headquarters next Saturday. The Peruvian Committee of Solidarity With the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean also called on popular organizations to celebrate the date of the victory of the Cuban revolution with activities and a cultural presentation.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENT -- Senator Gaston Acurio Velarde, head of the bicameral budget commission, said last night that the Peruvian Government has paid over $4 billion to cover debts contracted by the previous government. Acurio Velarde also said that Peru has lost approximately $2 billion as a result of the drop in the prices of Peruvian raw materials. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Dec 83 p A 4 PY]

URANIUM VEIN DISCOVERED -- The Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN) has discovered an important uranium vein in the region of Huiquisa in Macusani district, Puno Department. Approximately 500 tons of uranium were discovered, but IPEN specialists believe that the vein could have between 10,000 and 30,000 tons. Since the prospecting work in Macusani is at a standstill, the IPEN's raw materials department has requested approximately $1 million from the treasury to carry out the preliminary phase of the Huiquisa project. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Dec 83 p A 1 PY]

LUSINCHI REPORTEDLY HAS 'TENTATIVE CABINET'

PA041913 Paris AFP in Spanish 1725 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Caracas, 4 Jan (AFP) -- Four months before his inauguration as chief of state, Jaime Lusinchi, the Venezuelan Social Democratic president-elect, already has a "tentative cabinet," according to fellow party members.

The foreign minister will be Isidro Morales Paul, an independent expert in maritime law, which is a key to negotiations on Venezuela's maritime borders with Colombia.

Morales Paul will comfortably garner a national consensus because the first to appear as a possible foreign minister was Rafael Caldera, Lusinchi's Christian Democratic rival during the election campaign. [sentence as received]

The interior minister will be Octavio Lepage, Lusinchi's campaign manager, who aspires to the nomination for the presidency by the Social Democratic, AD (Democratic Action), in 5 years.

Manuel Azpurua, a young executive of the Mendoza Group, one of the country's largest private business groups, will occupy the Finance Ministry post.

Azpurua will shoulder the work of refinancing the public foreign debt of $28 billion, of which $16 million is in short-term debts.

Humberto Alcalde Alvarez will remain as defense minister. This post is traditionally occupied by the senior general in active service.

The Energy and Mines Ministry will go to Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, a petroleum engineer who is an AD member and who fervently supported the nationalization of this industry during the 1970's.

Simon Alberto Consalvi, who was foreign minister at the close of Carlos Andres Perez' administration (1974-1979), will be the minister secretary general of the presidency, or the president's right-hand man.

Luis Matos Azocar and Hector Hurtado, economists and AD members, will be the planning and development (industries and commerce) ministers, respectively.

Experts from either AD's ranks or close independent sectors will fill the remaining positions, except that of labor, which reportedly will go to Simon Antoni Pavan, of the URD [Democratic Republic Union], the small centrist group that supported Lusinchi.

Lusinchi plans to create two state ministries: a family ministry, which will replace that of women's affairs, and a ministry for youth and sports.

DE LA ESPRIELLA DISCUSSES POLITICAL SITUATION

PA050207 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Video interview with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella by an unidentified reporter; in the canal area on 4 January 1984 -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr President, do you feel confident about the political situation; and is everything ready to hold the elections on the date stipulated?

[De la Espriella] I am very confident. Tomorrow we will give the Electoral Tribunal the check we promised to deliver at the beginning of the year. The Electoral Tribunal has complained about the bureaucracy, the auditors, and the red tape; when they receive the check, I do not think they will have anything to complain about. The executive branch has given the Electoral Tribunal every facility for the elections. It is up to the Electoral Tribunal to fulfill its mandate.

[Reporter] If the electoral law were amended, would you consider running for the presidency?

[De la Espriella] I do not think so.

[Announcer] Concerning the peace efforts of the Contadora Group in the Central American area, President De la Espriella said:

[De la Espriella] No matter what is said, the Contadora Group's most positive achievement was preventing war in Central America. The danger of war still persists; it has not been completely removed. But in the year just ended we succeeded in preventing a conflict among the nations of the area, which are definitely having internal conflicts, such as El Salvador and Nicaragua.

We also managed to bring the five Central American foreign ministers together to hold a dialogue and reach an agreement. At this moment they are discussing the 21-point peace proposal. I think this is a step forward. Even if the problem has not been definitely solved, it has not worsened. For the time being, this is positive.

BELIZE

1984 SUGAR EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 111,760 TONS

FL042030 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 4, CANA -- Belize is expected to produce 110,000 long tons (111,760 tonnes) of raw sugar for export from the current crop, whose 1984 harvesting began today, industry officials said.

Grinding got under way slowly today at the Tower Hill Factory, one of two, but industry sources said it would reach a rate of about 4,800 tons daily as activity picked up.

General Manager of Belize Sugar Industries Hugh Fuller told CANA the Tower Hill Factory, which handles cane from the Orange Walk District, was expected to produce 65,000 tons (66,040 tonnes), and the Libertad Factory, which grinds cane from the Corozal District, 45,000 tons (45,720 tonnes).

Belize depends mainly on sugar for most of its foreign exchange earnings. It has quotas totalling 67,800 tons with the United States and European Community; about 7,000 is used locally, and the remainder sold on the international market. Last year production reacheda record high of 114,000 tons (115,824 tonnes), a 7.5 per cent increase over the previous year. About 65,000 acres of cane are presently under cultivation.

Grinding at the Tower Hill Factory is expected to continue until late June. It is expected that by that time the mill should manufacture some 65,000 tons of sugar from 600,000 tons of cane.

Sugar Board Secretary Liborio Ayuso said today that cane farmers in the Orange Walk District would be allowed to deliver more than their monthly quotas for January in an effort to get grinding to proceed full steam ahead. Grinding of cane at the Libertad factory in the Corozal District started in early December but was thwarted by a labour dispute when the Belize Sugar Industries moved to cut back the labour force at the factory. The dispute was resolved when the PSI agreed to retain redundant workers and study the labour situation with the union during the current grinding season, which is expected to last until late June or early July.

COSTA RICA

NEW JUSTICE MINISTER SWORN IN 4 JANUARY

PA041832 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Justice Minister Hugo Alfonso Munoz will be sworn in this morning at the government council session. Munoz recently met with officials from institutions related to the ministry that he will head, especially those involved in penitentiary policy.

FOREIGN MINISTER OPTIMISTIC ON CONTADORA GROUP

PA040345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2341 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] San Jose, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Carlos Gutierrez, the new Costa Rican foreign minister, today said he was moderately optimistic about the future of the Contadora Group's peace-keeping efforts in Central America.

On the eve of the meeting of Central American foreign ministers with their counterparts of the Contadora Group scheduled this weekend in Panama, Gutierrez stated that there are currently two draft treaties to secure a lasting peace in the region. The first draft treaty was prepared by the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, and the other was drafted by the Central American foreign ministers based on a Nicaraguan proposal and a document prepared by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

"I see no problem in reaching an agreement on these documents," Gutierrez remarked, noting that, above all, problems of procedure in implementing the recommended measures might somewhat hinder the process.

Recalling that the Contadora Group will be marking its first anniversary on Monday, Foreign Minister Gutierrez positively noted that "there has not been an international war in the region, in spite of this having been a threat all year," but at the same time recognized that [words indistinct].

"As little as our success may have been, we have nothing better, and Contadora is the only alternative," the Costa Rican foreign minister concluded.

OFFICIALS CITED ON ANTI-SANDINIST ACTIVITIES

PA041630 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] San Jose -- Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon has announced that Somozist counterrevolutionary groups attack Nicaraguan positions from Costa Rican territory. In a statement to the morning newspaper LA REPUBLICA, the deputy government minister noted that members of the organization called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] retreated toward Costa Rican territory following recent attacks of increased intensity.

A report by this official that Sandinist People's Army soldiers had entered Costa Rican territory was denied by Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano. Solano stressed that Public Security Ministry personnel stationed in the northern region have not reported incursions by Sandinist soldiers, as reported in the last few hours.

In addition to Solano's denial, public force chief Oscar Vidal noted that there is complete normalcy in the area under his forces' surveillance.

Havana Report

FL050100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] San Jose -- Vice Minister of Government Enrique Chacon has admitted that counterrevolutionary groups attack Nicaraguan positions from Costa Rican territory. In a statement made to the morning newspaper LA REPUBLICA, the vice minister pointed out that men of the organization called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] had withdrawn toward Costa Rican territory after the intensity of the fighting increased.

This same official's statement that Sandinist soldiers had entered Costa Rican territory was contradicted by Costa Rican Public Security Minister Edmundo Solano.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES STONE'S VISIT

PA040340 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The Guatemalan Government will give Richard Stone an overall description of the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the region. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran late yesterday asserted that General Mejia Victores will outline the peace efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the region, during his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Richard Stone.

Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran added that during his meeting with Richard Stone, he will talk about the Topaz Document for the area, which was submitted at the Contadora Group meetings. He will also discuss other documents and agreements reached with other Central American countries. These will be reviewed at the next Contadora Group meeting, which will be held on 7 January in Panama.

The Guatemalan foreign minister asserted that the U.S. ambassador's visit has no political significance; nor does it represent an attempt to intervene in Guatemalan affairs. Instead, it represents an attempt to collaborate in the search for solutions to achieve peace in the area, as asserted by the government.

PRESIDENT REFERS TO U.S. AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE

PA050312 Guatemalan City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores yesterday reiterated that our country's relations with the United States are good and cooperative. He denied that U.S. Ambassador Frederic L. Chapin has abandoned our country over alleged violations of human rights. here.

During the past days, international news dispatches have reported that Ambassador Chapin has been recalled for an indefinite time by President Reagan, and there have been rumors that he will not return to Guatemala at all.

Mejia Victores said that relations with the U.S. Government are friendly and cooperative. We do not have problems; Ambassador Chapin left on vacation and someone else has temporarily taken over.

Our relations are the same, there are no problems. Guatemala has been included in the Caribbean Basin Initiative. If there were any problem, we would certainly have been excluded from it.

A UPI dispatch received here 2 days ago said that the U.S. Government had placed an embargo on the sale of $200-million worth of helicopter spare parts following the recent tragic death here of AID officials. Gen Mejia explained that the country has been getting by on its own for a long time militarily and is manufacturing its own ammunition and armored vehicles. We are not receiving any military aid, but if we do in the future it would be welcome.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. MEASURES

PA040333 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Moreira yesterday confirmed two very important developments for the country:

1. The United States has lifted the embargo on the used weapons purchased by the Guatemalan Army for training purposes, and it will not oppose shipment of these weapons.

2. U.S. President Ronald Reagan has included Guatemala in the Caribbean Basin **Initiative.**

This, Moreira asserted, will allow Guatemalan producers to export all their production.

MEJIA VICTORES ON DRAFTING OF NEW ELECTORAL BILL

PA042028 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] In his capacity as chief of state, General Oscar Mejia Victores yesterday afternoon announced that he will meet with the Cabinet ministers dealing with the country's political affairs and the members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to discuss the bill containing the new law on elections.

Mejia said that the proposals and opinions of the various political sectors regarding the bill on elections would again be discussed at the meeting in order to draft a new bill. He added that during his brief meeting with Richard Stone, the U.S. ambassador for Central American affairs, the process of his government's democratization and the bill on elections were discussed. The new law on elections may be enacted next week following a meeting between the chief of state and politicians. Mejia announced that the new law on elections may be enacted next week following the meeting he will hold within 8 days with the representatives of the political party formation committees.

Finally, Mejia Victores said that during yesterday afternoon's meeting [as heard] with the members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the Cabinet ministers in charge of political affairs a new bill on elections will be drafted, which will be submitted to the politicians for consideration next week.

SOCIAL CHRISTIANS ON PROVISIONAL PRESIDENCY

PA050255 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] The leaders of the organization committee of the Social Christian Party yesterday agreed to support the idea of the Constitutional Assembly appointing a provisional president, whose mandate would have legal support from the deputies elected by the people.

This idea has been strongly criticized; however, the Social Christians believe that the independence of that sovereign body (the Assembly) cannot be limited.

HAVANA NOTES FUR CHARGES OF CORRUPTION

PA040420 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Social-Democratic United Revolutionary Front, FUR, of Guatemala has denounced the administrative corruption and the submission of the judicial branch to the leadership of the Guatemalan military regime, and pointed to the need for reforms to alleviate the miserable conditions affecting the peasant sector.

In a communique released in Guatemala City, the political organization noted that the Guatemalan people are continuing to suffer the effects of repression and the exodus of Indian peasants.

Regarding the situation in Central America and the Caribbean, the party condemned the U.S. invasion of Grenada and demanded respect for the self-determination of the peoples of the area.

FUR reported that in December the group attacked national police vehicles in the capital city and occupied a farm that had been used as an operations base by government forces. The attack on the police vehicles took place on 27 December in an important sector of Guatemala City, and according to the report, the police suffered approximately 20 casualties.

The occupation of the La Paz coffee plantation, in San Marcos Department, took place 2 days later.

REBELS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS

PA040450 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 16

[Text] The clandestine group Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, has claimed responsibility for a fire that destroyed several official vehicles and for other rebel activities in Peten. The statement was made in a document that was secretly sent to this newspaper's editorial department. The statement points out that, between 16 November and 18 December, the "Rigoberto Florian" Group harassed some military commandos between km 18 and 25 on the road from Santa Elena to Poptun. The rebels likewise assert that they set fire to two patrol vehicles, a transportation vehicle, and two trucks from the [words indistinct] Company. The information adds that the rebels took over the towns of Chal, La Pita, and others.

RADIO TERMS SPECIAL TRIBUNALS 'ABERRATION'

PA040425 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Editorial: "Legal Aberrations Which Must Be Corrected"]

[Text] Lawyer Conrado Alonso was widely known for his courage as the defender of several citizens who were tried by the sadly famous special tribunals. He has published an article in PRENSA LIBRE about this topic, asserting that juridical aberrations are being accumulated over the juridical monstrosity that those secret, Inquisition-like tribunals represented.

The writer bases his article on statements by Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran at the United Nations in which he had termed the activities of these special tribunals a legal aberration. However, Alonso justly argues that although we admit the legal monstrosity of these special tribunals for the sake of our image abroad, many of those sentenced by these tribunals are still in prison. They have received sentences that were illegal from the beginning.

Therefore, the logical, just, and cautious thing to do in view of the evidence would be to completely and definitely annul all the past sentences. Thus, citizens would have the right to a new trial, with all the guarantees of an impartial trial and defense counsel, as stated by international legal norms.

If the people were unjustly sentenced in secret courts, without even knowing who judged them because they were masked in anonymity, in a aberrant and non-Christian action by the former regime presided over by General Rios Montt, it would be just to abolish all the procedures from their very beginning.

According to Conrado Alonso, this is an elemental thing, because legal aberrations are being added to the initial aberration by granting validity to sentences that lacked minimum legal principles.

BRIEFS

NEW DEPUTY MINISTER -- Carlos Guzman Estrada has been appointed new deputy government minister, replacing Aroldo Cabrera Enriquez. Government Minister Gustavo Lopez Sandoval described the new appointment as routine. [Summary] [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Jan 84 PA]

EL SALVADOR

DEATH SQUAD-LINKED OFFICERS BEING SENT ABROAD

PA050017 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The December military order does not include any significant changes. The only important change is the appointment of the new head of the Navy.

The high-level military sources we consulted have indicated that the U.S. Government's request that some high-ranking officers who have been implicated as memebers of or cooperators with the death squads be sent abroad has begun. However, the sources said that this is a purely internal affair of the Armed Forces and not at the request of foreign political sectors, as some have interpreted.

MNR CHARGES MILITARY MEMBERSHIP IN DEATH SQUADS

PA050405 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2239 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Managua, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), led by Guillermo Ungo, which is part of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), has charged that ranking military officers are members of the death squads in that country.

In a communique sent to Nicaraguan information media, the leftists state that the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador "delivered to the defense minister a list of names of civilians and military men accused of belonging to the death squads." According to the MNR bulletin: "The U.S. State Department ordered the drafting of a secret document on the investigations of the killing of four U.S. nuns on 3 December 1980. It was prepared by Judge Harold Tiller." The Salvadoran revolutionaries note that when the killings were carried out, General Eugenio Vides Casanova, currently defense minister, was the director of the National Guard, and according to the "Tiller Document," he and other ranking officers "are suspected of concealing evidence of that institution's participation in the killing of the U.S. nuns."

Moreover, according to the MNR, Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, declared that the investigations carried out by his country revealed that two guards who witnessed the killing of the nuns "were killed by paramilitary members and reported by the Salvadoran high military command to have died in combat."

According to the opposition political organization, this information confirms what the insurgents' communiques have disclosed about the complicity of ranking Armed Forces members in crimes that are committed daily in El Salvador.

The MNR note adds that Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, National Police director, is the one "who goes by the pseudonym of 'Aquiles Baires,' commander of the Secret Anticommunist Army, one of the death squads terrorizing El Salvador."

MILITARY ORDER ISSUED ON ELECTIONS STANCE

PA042238 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 24

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, reporting Defense and Public Security Ministry order dated 3 January, San Salvador]

[Text] COPREFA announces to the Salvadoran people the Defense and Public Security Ministry order regulating the conduct of the Armed Forces regarding the electoral process. The political parties should provide necessary cooperation and refrain from trying to create sectarian or participatory positions within the Armed Forces prohibited by the Constitution and our own beliefs.

Defense and Public Security Ministry

Beginning on 8 December 1983, and in accordance with the constitutional statutes in effect, the electoral campaign will commence throughout the country in preparation for the 25 March 1984 elections for president and vice president of the Republic.

During the past 4 years, the Armed Forces have promoted and supported the democratization process and have directed all their efforts toward the creation of the necessary institutions in order to allow this process to occur within an orderly framework of democracy and political respect for our citizens. The Constitution promulgated on 20 December 1983 and its political, economic, and social provisions are the manifest will of the Salvadoran people. The Armed Forces guarantee their respect and have promised to ensure that everyone respects these provisions.

Our Constitution orders the Armed Forces to maintain peace, tranquillity, public security, and the fulfillment of its provisions and other laws in force, guaranteeing that the republic form of government and the representative democratic system will be maintained and especially guaranteeing free suffrage and respect for human rights. To fulfill these mandates, Article 212 establishes that the Salvadoran Armed Forces is a permanent institution that is essentially apolitical.

Based on this, the Defense and Public Security Ministry issues the following order:

1. All commanders, chiefs, officers, and components of the Armed Forces will maintain an absolutely apolitical position in the civic electoral process and will not undertake any partisan participation or adopt a position favoring any political party in the contest. Thus, our members will express to the citizens their emphatic desire and firm conviction to respect the mandates stemming from our Constitution. Since the structural strength of our institution is our firm unity, any violation of this order will be considered harmful to the Salvadoran people and an attack on the organizational existence of our institution.

2. Together with their aides, all commanders must prepare regional plans guaranteeing the electoral process in each of their sectors of responsibility under guidelines to be established by the Armed Forces High Command.

These plans will be requested by the general staff to facilitate drawing up the national security plan for the electoral process. This plan will define the Armed Forces' constitutional attitude regarding the historic process our citizens have already begun.

3. All the commanders, chiefs, and officers will provide every guarantee that the political parties officially require in an equitable, egalitarian, and neutral manner.

4. Any violation of the current provisions by any member of the Armed Forces or any attempt at sectarian penetration of our organizations must be immediately reported to this organization to allow for an immediate and fitting response.

5. All commanders, chiefs, and officers will henceforth give the Central Electoral Council all support within the law to guarantee the Salvadoran people a free, legitimate, and pure electoral process.

6. The commanders, chiefs, and officers must inform their subordinates of the content of this order, emphasizing its constitutional origin and strengthening the civic conviction of our components to profess utmost respect for the free political will of our people.

San Salvador, 3 January 1984

General Carlos Engenio Vides Casanova, Minister of Defense and Public Security

FMLN REPORTS ON EL PARAISO CASUALTIES, PRISONERS

Identifies Officers Killed

PA042352 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 4 Jan 84

[War Report No 4 from the General Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, FAPL, armed branch of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, of the FMLN; dated 3 January]

[Text] We report to our people the list of dead officers identified in the ruins of the [4-second break in transmission] brigade of El Paraiso: Colonel (Jose Ricardo Baquedano), second in command of the garrison; Lieutenant Colonel (Hugo Stanley Orantes), executive officer; Captain (Monterrosa), commander of the 3d Battalion; Lieutenant (Ruiz Flores), commander of the 2d Battalion and officer on guard at the time of our forces' attack; Artillery Lieutenant (Julio Cesar Monge), commander of the Support Weapons Company; Second Lieutenant (Ivan Dario Flamenco); Second Lieutenant (Godofredo Panameno); and Second Lieutenant (Jesus Espinoza Angel). The other dead officers have not yet been identified. The only surviving officer is Captain (Wilfredo Hidalgo Avila), head of the 4th Logistics Department of the 4th Infantry Brigade. He is now a prisoner of the FMLN. We will continue reporting.

General Command of the Peoples' Liberation Armed Forces

[Signed] Commander Leonel Gonzalez, Commander Dimas Rodriguez, Commander (Milton Mendez), Commander Salvador Guerra, and Commander Ricardo Gutierrez

Releases 100 Prisoners

PA050020 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] FMLN guerrillas today released to the parish priest of Tejutla approximately 100 prisoners captured when the rebels attacked the El Paraiso Garrison last week. Civilian sources in Tejutla have told the press that the leftists remained 10 km from the El Paraiso Garrison with most of the soldiers they captured on Friday when they attacked the military installation with artillery. The civilian sources did not indicate whether some of the captured officers will be freed by the rebels.

Releases 44 POW's

PA040446 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Report by correspondent Rosendo Lobo from Chalatenango Department -- live]

[Excerpt] Esperanza Samayoa de Hidalgo and other prisoners were released this afternoon. Samayoa de Hidalgo is the wife of Captain Hidalgo, who was taken prisoner during the 30 December clashes at El Paraiso Barracks, Chalatenango. For the people's peace of mind and the people whose names we will immediately announce, this is the full list of the 44 people who have been released.

COMMENTARY ON BRIDGE DESTRUCTION URGES PEACE

PA041255 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1815 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Station commentary: "The War Continues"]

[Excerpts] The Salvadoran people were still celebrating the new year's arrival when they heard about the tragic destruction of Cuscatlan Bridge.

According to press reports, during the early hours of Sunday, 1 January, FMLN forces launched a strong guerrilla attack, destroying the huge structure linking the eastern region with the rest of the country.

We have seen photographs of the destroyed bridge, in which the magnitude of the damage can be clearly seen. This is another nearly fatal blow to our already weak economy. These photographs give an idea, even to those who are not military experts, of the powerful military equipment used in the military confrontation, which, as we all know, will have been in progress for 4 years in 1984.

To give an opinion or give a political evaluation of the military action that resulted in the destruction of the Cuscatlan Bridge is a very delicate matter. For some it is simply another action derived from the desperation and unquenched thirst of the terrorist groups. For others it is part of the strategy of economic war, which considers valid any activity within the revolutionary war they claim to be waging. Therefore, since it is difficult to condemn or justify the action, we will try to be very careful and as objective as possible in discussing the subject.

We think that, after all, the people are the ones who in the long run will suffer the consequences of the rebel attack -- the large number of Salvadorans, the majority of them humble people, who need the Cuscatlan Bridge for their daily activities.

The results are always the same: death and destruction. Moreover, in the end, who loses? Who sacrifices the dead? The Salvadoran people; the oppressed silent majority that pleads for peace, and only peace; the majority that clamors and cries out to those who have the power of decision: Gentlemen, please, for our children, accept dialogue. Sit down and negotiate as civilized men. It is not possible that, just to follow orders from foreign powers, we, the Salvadorans, would destroy our country and kill each other.

We repeat: The destruction of Cuscatlan Bridge is regrettable. It will bring more suffering and greater difficulties to the already existing precarious conditions. It is possible that, militarily speaking, the action can be justified; but on our part, we condemn it. The people should not have to suffer the consequences of the political struggle.

However, despite the criticism or condemnation the action deserves, this is not the main issue. The important thing is that with all their strength the people demand an end to the war. As long as this does not become a reality, we are likely to continue witnessing incidents that bring further mourning to Salvadoran families.

Yes, the war continues. Instead of trying to determine responsibilities, instead of seeking effects, let's try to find the causes. Let's get rid of them, and this whole inferno will become part of a remote and sad past.

URBAN COMMANDOS OCCUPY STATION, AIR MESSAGE

PA050243 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0005 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Urban commandos of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement today occupied a widely heard radio station in this capital in order to transmit a message. Employees of "Radio Cadena Central" told ACAN-EFE that the rebel occupation occurred at approximately 0700 (1300 GMT) when there was only one radio announcer and a few other workers present.

The sources gave no details on the message broadcast. No one was injured during the station occupation, the first this year. It was occupied at least 10 times last year. "Radio Cadena Central" suspended its newscasts during the month of September in the wake of a bomb explosion at its installations, an attack claimed by ultra-rightwingers.

A rebel radio station today announced the list of 171 members of the Army taken prisoner during the occupation of the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters in El Paraiso in the northern part of the country. Among the soldiers taken prisoner, 25 of whom have been released with 19 civilians who worked at the garrison, are 1 captain, 2 cadets, 1 sergeant, and 3 corporals.

FMLN ALLEGES AIR FORCE ATTACK ON SAN FERNANDO

PA050232 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The dictatorship's Air Force has again attacked the civilian population. On the afternoon of 4 January, an Air Force O-2A light plane fired rockets at the town of San Fernando in northern Morazan Department. We previously reported that on 1 January, Air Force planes dropped bombs scarcely 20 meters from the Perquin church.

Air Attack on Chalatenango

PA050317 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Report by correspondent Rafael Gonzalez from Chalatenango Department -- live]

[Text] This is Radio Farabundo Marti clarifying information for our people. Today at 0800 an A-37 plane strafed the neighborhoods of Chalatenango for several minutes. We denounce before our people and the other peoples of the world this desperate measure taken by the criminal dictatorship headed by Vides Casanova and his fascist high command.

HAVANA ON REBEL ACTIONS, ARMY MORALE, LOSSES

Cites U.S. Official on Rebel Actions

PA050035 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] John Hughes, the U.S. State Department spokesman, has described as serious the Salvadoran rebels' occupation of El Paraiso Barracks and the blowing up of the Cuscatlan Bridge over the Lempa River. He said that President Ronald Reagan's government advocates even greater military aid for El Salvador.

On 31 December, FMLN forces inflicted on the Salvadoran Army 300 casualties during the taking of El Paraiso Barracks, where the regime's 4th Infantry Brigade was located, and seized a large quantity of war materiel.

At almost the same time, rebel forces blew up the Cuscatlan Bridge joining San Vicente and Usulutan Departments on the Pan American Highway. The bridge was being guarded by 400 Salvadoran soldiers.

The rebels' successful attacks provoked an emergency meeting of the military high command and regime authorities to evaluate the situation and the Salvadoran Armed Forces' counterinsurgency strategy.

According to other reports from San Salvador, death squads murdered two young men in two separate incidents in the capital.

Notes U.S. 'Concern'

PA040400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Ranking U.S. Government officials have expressed concern over the low morale of the Salvadoran regime's Army following the setbacks suffered in two important guerrilla actions carried out in the last few days.

The daily THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted U.S. Government sources, which it did not identify, who consider that the Salvadoran guerrillas possibly have better command, control, communications, and intelligence than the Salvadoran Army troops trained by the United States. The paper noted that the recent guerrilla victories took place while the elite battalions of the Salvadoran regime were suffering desertions.

Army Battalion Abandons Positions

FL040250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] An entire battalion of the Salvadoran Army abandoned its positions last Sunday in the northern department of Chalatenango, according to a report from the insurgent Farabundo Marti Radio. The radio stressed that the government soldiers fled totally demoralized. The report adds that the Army High Command has had to station guards at Colima Bridge on the northern trunk [as heard] to keep hundreds of soldiers from running away.

Heavy Casualties Sustained by Army

PA301915 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] According to Radio Vanceremos, the FMLN's official voice, the Salvadoran Army sustained 225 dead and wounded in 12 days of fighting with the guerrillas in the departments of San Miguel and Morazan. In these actions, in which 3,000 troops participated, the insurgents captured 35 soldiers and seized 87 rifles, 14 support weapons, ammunitions, and other war materiel. They also damaged five helicopters.

For its part, the Salvadoran High Command has announced that an antiguerrilla campaign has begun in Usulutan Department, where 2,500 troops of the Army's special battalions, trained by the United States, have been deployed.

According to the rebel station, Radio Farabundo Marti, the Air Force attacked the primary school of Las Flores Canton, in La Paz Department, near the border, as well as the localities of Torola and San Fernando in northern Morazan.

Cites Venceremos on Government Losses

FL031440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] In a summary of actions carried out in 1983, the FMLN affirmed that during that period, they inflicted more than 7,000 casualties, dead and wounded, on the Army. During the same period, they took 1,788 government troops prisoner.

The figures, supplied by the rebel station, Radio Venceremos, added that during the year the guerrillas managed to capture 3,455 rifles of different calibers, and 245 artillery pieces. They occupied 66 towns, destroyed 10 power substations and numerous electric towers, and dynamited 22 bridges. The report also stated that during last year the Salvadoran rebels, on several occasions, controlled important sections of the Pan American Highway and the coastline, paralyzed railroad transportation, and patrolled several government coffee plantations.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO PROTESTS POTOSI ATTACK TO HONDURAS

PA050415 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Protest note sent by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica; date not given]

[Text] Mr Minister: I address your excellency to make known to you the following grave events.

At 0030 on 3 January 1984, two speedboats coming from Honduran waters on the Gulf of Fonseca entered Nicaraguan territorial waters and attacked the Port of Potosi in Chinandega Department for 10 minutes with mortar fire. At the same time, an airplane of an undetermined model staged a harassing action against the same port, firing rockets that hit 400 meters from its installations. It subsequently withdrew toward Honduran territory, from where it had come. That same day, 3 January, at 2250, another airplane of an undetermined model coming from Honduras flew over the Port of Potosi in Chinandega Department. It fired rockets which hit the installations of the ferry operating in that location, and destroyed the home of a peasant family. It later withdrew toward Honduras. We do not have to lament any loss of human life.

In view of these grave actions, which are added to the already endless list of acts of provocation and open violation of our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Nicaraguan Government presents its most energetic and formal protest to your illustrious government, and demands behavior more in accordance with the principles of international law, an unequivocal foundation for peaceful coexistence between our countries. I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my regards and esteem.

Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Foreign Minister

STATE SECURITY CHIEF INTERVIEWED BY PARIS PAPER

PM041233 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 21 Dec 83 p 13

[Interview with Nicaraguan State Security Chief Lenin Cerna Juarez by Alain Guerin in Managua -- date not given]

[Text] Question: What precisely is your rank and your duties?

Answer: I am a brigade commander and a guerrilla commander. Brigade commander is the highest rank in our Armed Forces. Guerrilla commander is the position which comes immediately after the highest position, that of revolution commander. In December 1979 the leadership of our Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] appointed me chief of the General Department of State Security [DGSE].

Question: How old are you?

Answer: Thirty-six years old.

Question: Is Lenin your Christian name or a nom de guerre?

Answer: It is my Christian name, the name my father gave me. My father was a Salvadoran, and his whole political attitude leaned toward communism. I have a brother called Engels.... Our house was a shoemakers' shop and I was raised among shoemakers, all of whom supported the Cuban revolution.

Question: Did that name cause problems for you when you were a child?

Answer: Of course, especially since I was not baptized. In some schools I had problems with the reactionaries.... But when the revolutionary struggle came, I obviously adopted a pseudonym.

Question: Did you join the revolutionary struggle when you were young?

Answer: Yes, fairly young.... Let us say that my political life began when I was 15 years old in the FSLN. At that time I was at secondary school; I sat my baccalaureate and after that I was an FSLN official until victory was achieved. However, from the age of 14 I had helped to distribute pamphlets and taken part in bomb attacks on Somozists.... We also carried out what we called economic recovery to boost the front's finances.

Question: How old were you when you went into hiding?

Answer: I was around 17 years old. I first went into hiding in the city. Then I took part in organizing actions in the mountains.... Later I was arrested. That was in 1968. I spent 7 years in prison. I was released in an operation by a commando group from the organization. After my release I went to Cuba. Then I returned to Nicaragua. In 1977 I was leader of the "Rigoberto Lopez Western Front," the commander of that front. But I was wounded and I had to go abroad again. When I returned I fought here until victory was achieved.

Question: What happened during your 7 years in prison?

Answer: At the beginning and at the end I was in a top-security prison.... I had been captured by members of Somoza's security forces, men from his national security office. They questioned me and tortured me. That lasted 1 month.... I suffered electric shocks from electrodes in contact with the wet ground, sleep deprivation, my head was covered with a hood, and I suffered physical brutality and simulated shooting.... They tortured everybody they arrested.

Question: Many Sandinist leaders are poets, but I have been told that you were an artist....

Answer: Yes, I liked to draw and in prison I had time to do a little more, to do some painting.... But I no longer have time.

Question: You said just now that you were appointed security chief in December 1979...

Answer: The DGSE was formed immediately after our victory in mid-July 1979. Its purpose was to take prisoners and to question all Somoza's soldiers and the officials of his regime. Its first chief was commander Hugo Torres, who is now in charge of the Armed Forces' Political Department. I replaced him in December. Our department is part of the Interior Ministry and its highest official is, therefore, the minister, Revolution Commander Tomas Martinez Borge. He is the only remaining founding member of the FSLN.

Question: How does your department operate?

Answer: It is a body formed on the basis of political selection, of comrades who want to be part of it. It is a political organization which operates according to the rules of the Interior Ministry, following the minister's directives, and in keeping with the Republic's laws. The department members obey those laws in the exercise of their duties.

Question: What links are there between your department and the counterespionage department whose chief is Commander Julio Ramos?

Answer: The body which is led by Commander Ramos, who is chief of counterintelligence in the Sandinist People's Army, is a department which defends the Army's interests. The DGSE serves the interests of the state as a whole. Commander Ramos is concerned with intelligence activity in the Army and we do the same for the state. But we support and help Commander Ramos.

Question: What is the job of the department of which you are head?

Answer: The FSLN national leadership has given us the mission of taking steps to detect, locate, and expose CIA activities. This concerns the activities both of its members who have a legal facade and diplomatic cover, and of Nicaraguan agents recruited by the CIA's legal or illegal apparatus... That is our essential mission: to detect, discover, prevent, and neutralize. And we also have the job of detecting the enemy's intelligence activities, subversion, and logistics [la ravitaillement] On that basis we must plan our counteroffensive to wreck the plans of enemy intelligence. We know the CIA is behind those plans, as it is in the diversionary groups, and even in the espionage activities of some friendly embassies...

Question: Is your action limited to Nicaraguan territory or are you also taking action outside your country?

Answer: Our's is a country which is suffering constant attack and aggression. Like all countries, we must seek the source of our ills... Despite our limited resources, as a body and as revolutionaries, we feel we must attack the enemy where he is.

Question: So at present your main activity is the struggle against the CIA?

Answer: Yes... We are first struggling against armed subversion by organizations set up by the CIA, but also against its intelligence actions, its recruitment of revolutionary militants and soldiers here, against the sabotage groups which the CIA is infiltrating across our borders or landing on our coasts... In our view everything leads to one head: The CIA. The civil servant approached by recruiting officers, the leader of a counterrevolutionary group stationed in Honduras or Costa Rica, the priests or opposition politicians all have as a common denominator the fact that they are at some time "handled" by the CIA man... That is interesting to observe.

Question: If you were to make a working assessment of your department, its strong points and its weak points, what would you say?

Answer: Our strength is the experience we have acquired in face of such a difficult enemy and despite terrible shortages of staff -- staff which have to be specialized. One of our main achievements is that we now know that we have a body capable of tackling that enemy... We have achieved noteworthy successes as regards internal plots, plots hatched in our own country. We have also had results in controlling other activities... As for our weaknesses, they are essentially our limited human and technical resources.

Question: Since you are at the same time one of the best informed men in Nicaragua and a political leader, how do you view the future?

Answer: That is a very interesting question because, as a revolutionary, a Sandinist, and a communist -- Yes, I am a communist -- the future does not worry me... In our view the future will be a constant struggle. Otherwise, our convictions would not be consistent with reality -- a reality which is that of our people's difficulties and imperialism's existence. As long as imperialism exists we, as a dignified people, are doomed either to face death or vanish. This is important, and for us, for me personally, the political situation is very worrying... We have suffered great pain to reach this point, many comrades are dead, and now our people, many South and Central American peoples, are living under the threat of extermination by the North Americans.

The immediate situation in Nicaragua is one of great and constant U.S. pressure. The Yankees are preparing to intervene in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Central America; we must be as psychologically prepared as we can to face that eventuality. But we are not afraid. And, what is most important, we are aware of what the historical situation requires of us.

Question: You are doing difficult work; do you also treat it as a profession?

Answer: I feel this work to be a duty to the party and, in that framework, I think we are fulfilling an important function for our party, for our revolution, and for the international revolution.... Our task is one which requires the greatest political lucidity and the clearest understanding of the class position.... What counts most for us is the people's support. Nicaragua could not fight the CIA without great popular support.

Question: The CIA seems to have underestimated your capacity to resist it....

Answer: That is a welcome mistake, a mistake which is favorable to us!

Question: But how can that mistake be explained?

Answer: It is a question of class... They said so themselves: these "Indians" are not intelligent.... but they did not understand how they could have been defeated by the Vietnamese either!

Question: You are a secret service chief with a public image....

Answer: We Sandinists are sons of the people and cannot be separated from them. We are careful to avoid any such separation. There is no revolution without the people's support... That is why we are public figures in our relations with the people. We take part in meetings and public events. We take basic safety precautions, but we have nothing to fear among our people.

EDITORIAL SCORES U.S. POLICY, 'REACTIONARIES'

PA041726 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "COSEP, the Coordinating Board, and LA PRENSA, Inc., Say the Same Thing"; passages in upper case as published]

[Text] AS IF IT WERE ANNOUNCING SOME GREAT NEWS, UPI, IMPERIALISM'S TRANSNATIONAL OF INFORMATION, HAS ANNOUNCED FROM WASHINGTON THAT RONALD REAGAN, THE WARMONGERING U.S. PRESIDENT, "DOES NOT BELIEVE" IN THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA IS CURRENTLY WIDENING.

Regarding this statement, it is worth noting that it not exactly a coincidence that here in Nicaragua the dehumanized members of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the politicking elements that comprise the Coordinating Board that styles itself democratic [Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board], the editors of LA PRENSA, Inc., and all those here in our country who oppose social progress should be repeating, like an echo, the statements made by Reagan, Kissinger, Kirkpatrick, and other officials of Reagan's imperialist administration.

As we all know, these sectors are incapable of explaining why progressive governments, like those that make up the Contadora Group or Democratic candidate Walter Mondale claim that Nicaragua has earned the right to have its demands for peace heeded.

The Nicaraguan reactionaries, like the imperialist officials within the Reagan administration, who advocate the grossest aberrations, are incapable of explaining why on every continent the progressive governments and peoples insist that it is vital for the future of mankind to adopt a policy of dialogue with the Sandinist government in order to strengthen peace in Central America.

Reagan, who keeps millions of U.S. citizens at starvation levels, without medicine or housing, repudiates the Nicaraguan revolution because it sponsors an agrarian reform program that will put an end to the peasants' poverty. He repudiates it because the Sandinist people's revolution promotes a program for EDUCATION AND CULTURE in order to put an end to the ignorance of thousands of Nicaraguans, or because it sponsors a SINGLE HEALTH SYSTEM to eradicate polio and other diseases which in the past were the scourge of our people. Furthermore, the COSEP; the COORDINATING BOARD that styles itself democratic; the self-styled Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, which is currently fragmented; the Social Christian Party; and LA PRENSA, Inc., oppose our revolution because they know that not even U.S. imperialism's power can return Nicaragua to the corrupt regime that Somozism led for 50 years. The members of COSEP, the Coordinating Board, and so forth practiced every form of extortion during this regime.

But progressive Nicaraguans, the patriots who have decided to remain firm in the defense of our national sovereignty and our political independence and to construct a new homeland, will always remain in the front line, invariably supporting our revolutionary government.

STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON 1985 ELECTIONS

PA041938 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The members of the so-called Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board feel that the 1980 literacy campaign was a political show, even though it has contributed to reducing the rate of illiteracy from 50 percent to 12 percent. This campaign, which has been recognized by UNESCO, belittled by members of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board during a meeting held yesterday with Adolfo Perez Esquivel, 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, a spokesman for the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, told Perez Esquivel that the Nicaraguan revolution is a totalitarian process, and he minimized the advances achieved in agrarian reform and those in the area of health care.

In a statement for Radio Sandino, Perez Esquivel said that during the meeting with members of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board he was able to see that they refuse to admit the achievements of the revolution in the fields of health, agrarian reform, education, and the national literacy campaign.

Commenting on statements by members of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board who don't believe that the revolutionary government will hold elections in 1985, Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council, said that it is really the so-called Democratic Coordinating Board that lacks credibility, because, when their representatives made a trip to Europe, they were unable to prove that the revolution lacked credibility.

How can they say that the Nicaraguan revolution lacks credibility when Nicaragua, at this moment, is a most respected country, Commander Nunez added. Regarding the elections to be held in Nicaragua in 1985, the president of the State Council said that elections in our country cannot be strictly traditional.

Commander Nunez pointed out to Perez Esquivel the advances in the process of institutionalizing the revolution, with the approval of the law on political parties and the discussion of the electoral rules scheduled for next month, which will end in elections in 1985. Commander Nunez said that once the electoral bill is drafted it will be sent to the political parties so that they can study it and make recommendations.

The president of the State Council spoke of the limitations the government faces in setting up the electoral apparatus as the reason that help from abroad will have to be requested.

OPPOSITION TO JOIN DEBATE ON ELECTION BILL

PA041827 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The major leaders of the parties opposed to the Nicaraguan revolutionary government today announced that they are prepared to participate in the State Council session that will discuss the elections bill.

Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the Social Democratic Party, said that he is waiting only for the State Council to confirm the legal existence of his organization to send a representative to the co-legislative body.

Agustin Jarquin Anaya, president [as heard] of the Social Christian Party, said that his party continues to follow its civic line and supports the creation of a constituent assembly before full campaign activities are lunched for the 1985 elections.

Felix Pedro Espinosa, leader of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, said that his party intends to participate in the debates on the elections bill at the State Council.

FPR LEADERS DISCUSS ROLE IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PA041815 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 0230 GMT 3 Jan 84

["Political Debates" program of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR, featuring Adolfo Evertsz, of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; Lombardo Martinez, of the Independent Liberal Party; Mauricio Diaz Davila, of the Popular Social Christian Party; and other representatives of FPR member parties; moderator not identified -- live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] How is the Socialist Party preparing for the upcoming elections?

[Evertsz] At different times we have said on behalf of our party that we must participate in the 1985 elections as a single bloc because doing so will strengthen the position of this country's revolutionary forces. If we take into account our own history, our country's history, the specific situation before us, and the prospects of this electoral process, it is logical to think that the Nicaraguan rightist parties will show up as a single bloc.

We obviously believe that the revolution's parties, that is, the parties that support the process, must also take part as a single bloc. Even though no agreement has been reached at the FPR [Patriotic Front of the Revolution] level, our Nicaraguan Socialist Party advocates a position of unity. We feel that we must take part in this process with a unified program, that is, by pooling the human resources needed to guarantee that this process will not only be successful in the elections but will also recommit itself to the continuation of its own advancement. That is why we pointed out this morning, at a meeting with Perez Esquivel, the Nobel Prize winner, that whoever wants to see a reflection of what will take place in the Nicaraguan election should go to the places where our country's youth are picking coffee or cotton, or working on defense tasks, in order to be convinced that those who are dreaming of a setback or the stagnation of our process are not facing reality.

[Moderator] Does the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] have any comments in response to the statement just made by Adolfo Evertsz of the Socialist Party?

[Martinez] I congratulate Adolfo for the statement that he made, and for his reasoning, based on our reality, that justifies the creation of a bloc. However, we would like to say that, while we have contemplated that possibility within our analyses, the PLI is a democratic party. Our party believes that democracy is the basis of development. It will be up to the party's assembly, at its 25 February meeting, to decide how we will participate in the elections.

[Moderator] Mauricio Diaz Davila, of the Popular Social Christian Party, what do you have to say about the ideas that have been expressed here on how political parties should take part in the elections?

[Diaz] Well, first of all, we have stressed roughly the same points that have been mentioned by the Socialist Party. We believe that the FPR must take part as a bloc in any eventual elections. However, in the end, this will depend on the decision reached individually by each party. It will depend on the way in which Nicaraguan rightists, reactionary groups, and the opposition decide to participate. It is not by any means a remote possibility, as I said earlier that there might be an attempt to harm this democratization process. There are some very obvious indications -- some of the ideas officially expressed in the newspaper LA PRENSA, for example, and the most recent document of the [Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic] Coordinating Board. They question the validity of this process, of this electoral plan. We believe that it is not a remote possibility that the opposition might decide not to take part in the elections. Therefore, the final decision reached by the FPR and by each of its member parties will depend on the decision made by each opposition party.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE COUNCIL ISSUES ELECTION STUDY

PA302200 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

["Text" of Nicaraguan Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) study on the electoral process, released in Managua on 24 December]

[Excerpt] The Big Challenge to the Leadership of the Revolution -- Measures for Authentic Elections

A climate of liberty and respect for citizens' rights is necessary so that the people may exercise their political rights without restrictions during the elections announced for 1985.

This electoral process can be characterized as authentic if it is carried out within the framework of guarantees that should exist before, during, and after the casting of votes. If the necessary guarantees are not granted, then the elections would be unjust, deceitful, and unfair -- that is, phoney.

The current political situation requires:

I. State-party separation. A general restructuring of the state and parastate apparatus to put an end to the identifying of state and parastate organizations with the political party in power (the FSLN) and its ideology. This means transforming state organizations (such as the EPS [the Sandinist Peoples Army], PS [Sandinist Police], FAS [Sandinist Air Force], SSTV [Sistema Sandinista Television Network], etc.), which now have a political nature, into true national organizations removed from political or ideological sectarianism. It also means eliminating politics in education and other cultural activities controlled or financed by the state.

This also means breaking the economic and functional links between the state and FSLN organizations [such as the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees], ATC [Farmworkers Association], AMNLAE [Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association], ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers], JS-19J [19 July Sandinist Youth], CST [Sandinist Workers Federation] etc.)

II. Repeal laws that violate human rights. Repeal, nullification, or reform -- according to the case -- of the laws that violate human rights, which were pointed out in the studies prepared by the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH) in October 1982 and later. Some of these laws are: Decree No 48, the news media general law; Decree No 1327, the Patriotic Military Service Bill; and those laws that violate the right to private property (Decree No 759, on the confiscation of enterprises; Decree No 760, on the confiscation of assets belonging to persons who are absent from the country more than 6 months; Decree No 330, a law to prevent and combat decapitalization). Undue application of these decrees should be rectified and eliminated, and undue application of laws on expropriation for reasons of public utility should also be rectified and eliminated.

III. Suspension of the state of emergency. Suspension of the national state of emergency and full exercise of freedom of expression and information.

IV. Amnesty Law. Promulgation of an amnesty law pertaining to political crimes and related common crimes.

V. Respect for freedom of worship. Full respect for freedom of worship and the exercise of the churches' ethical and religious principles.

VI. Labor union freedom. Repeal, nullification, or reform -- according to the case -- of the laws that restrict full exercise of labor union freedom. The right to strike and to free collective contracts should be established, and the ILO agreements signed by Nicaragua must be respected.

VII. Autonomy of the judicial branch. The full return of jurisdictional function and independence to the judicial branch.

VIII. Habeas corpus on unconstitutionality appeals. To give to the fundamental statute and to the statute on rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans the unalterable importance appropriate to constitutions, and also to eliminate clause 1 of the habeas corpus law (Decree No 417), to allow writs of habeas corpus on the basis of appeals of unconstitutionality.

IX. National dialogue on the call for elections. The holding of a national dialogue among all the political parties and movements, including those in arms, under the auspices and guarantees of the Contadora Group, for the purpose of agreeing on the form and content of a call for election of representatives to a national constituent assembly. These elections would be supervised by either the Contadora Group or the OAS.

Fundamental points of this call should be:

1. The fixing of the election date in January 1985.

2. Guarantees that the constitution to be promulgated will have a Western democratic nature, as conceived in the original program of the government of the revolution. This should also be expressed in the draft constitution that must be prepared by the State Council according to Article 18 of the fundamental statute, by means of a basic law that should function as a mandate from the people to their representatives in that assembly, and which should list the powers of the assembly. For the purpose of guaranteeing the democratic nature of the new constitution, it is appropriate and necessary that the basic law and the draft constitution take into consideration the following points:

a. A republican, democratic, and representative state.

b. Independence of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

c. Election of supreme and municipal authorities every 5 years by direct and secret universal suffrage and through the electoral quotient system.

d. Full guarantees for human rights in accordance with the American Convention of Human Rights.

e. Full municipal autonomy.

f. Ensuring of an apolitical nature and professionalism in the Armed Forces, which must be subordinate to the civilian authority.

g. Separation of the army and the police.

h. Regulations pertaining to the administrative and judicial profession.

i. A prohibition on presidential reelection.

3. Deadlines for the promulgation of the new constitution and for the holding of elections for national and municipal authorities.

4. Another objective of the dialogue should be reaching an agreement that at the time of its installation the national constituent assembly will appoint a pluralist provisional government junta that will hold executive power during that interregnum with the powers established by the assembly.

5. There should also be dialogue on the provisions that should be included in the electoral law that will be in effect only for the election of representatives to the national constituent assembly and that should guarantee free operation of the political parties within the broadest spirit of democratic pluralism, free elections, effective suffrage based on trustworthy electoral lists, and the organization and operation of the electoral organization free from all pressure.

Some of those essential provisions would be the following:

a. A direct, secret, personal, and nondelegable vote (Article 20 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man).

b. Minimum age of 18 to exercise the right to vote, and minimum age of 25 to be elected.

c. The right of parties to form coalitions for the elections and the obligation of parties to present, along with their lists of candidates, the lists of their national and departmental boards of directors elected democratically by the vote of their respective party assemblies or conventions.

d. Composition and powers of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, departmental tribunals, and electoral directorates, and the qualifications of their members.

e. Cantonal division carried out by the departmental electoral tribunals.

f. Method of preparing the electoral registry and date for registration in it.

g. Equal guarantees for all parties in disseminating electoral propaganda in the state media.

h. Creation of an electoral police under the electoral directors during the electoral process.

i. Preparation of locations that will guarantee the casting of secret votes; supplying of appropriate and trustworthy ballot boxes and uniform ballots with clear distinction between the names of the parties, and their emblems and colors.

j. Control of the voters through indelible ink marks after identification is confirmed on the electoral list.

k. Regulations on the cantonal, departmental, and national vote count; an immediate telegraph report to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal; copies to all the parties of the proclamation of the results within a rational period of time; and a method to challenge the results.

l. General provisions, crimes against the exercise of suffrage and electoral freedom, and associated penalties.

We believe that implementation of these and/or similar foundations could create sufficient confidence in the electoral process that is to be initiated, even though we are aware that the topic is obviously not exhausted with these legal-political suggestions. We understand that a great deal of work must be undertaken to overcome resentment, impatience to win, and totalitarian temptation. We are also aware that no matter how many legal procedures are established, they will be of no use if the human heart and mind do not plan to honestly fulfill them.

May God illuminate and bless us all to enable us to achieve the longed-for peaceful solution to the national crisis.

Managua, 24 December 1983

For the democratic unions:

Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers (CTN)
Confederation for Trade Union Unity (CUS)

For the democratic political parties:

Democratic Conservative Party (PCD)
Social Christian Party (PSC)
Social Democratic Party (PSD)
Authentic Popular Social Christian Party
[Partido Popular Social Cristiano Autentico -- PPSCA]

For the COSEP:

Nicaraguan Chamber of Industries (CADIN)
Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction
National Confederation of Professional Associations (CONAPRO)
Confederation of Chambers of Commerce of Nicaragua
Nicaraguan Institute of Development (INDE)
Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua (UPANIC)

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ATTACK CIUDAD ANTIGUA

PA041941 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Commander Juan Lorenzo Santana has informed BARRICADA that Ciudad Antigua, in Nueva Segovia, was the target of a counterrevolutionary attack on Monday. The attack was repelled by the Sandinist People's Militia. One militia member was killed and two were wounded during the attack, but the enemies of the people were not allowed to advance. Deputy Commander Santana said the counterrevolutionary group was comprised of some 40 people. They were repelled by the Sandinist People's Militia in heavy fighting that lasted an hour. Deputy Commander Santana added that fighting was reported yesterday in (Filas las Marias), 11 km north of Ciudad Sandino, but the number of enemy casualties was not known. He added that there has been fighting in that military zone since 21 December against the counterrevolutionary task forces.

Havana Reports on Attack

FL041743 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1204 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] An unsuccessful counterrevolutionary attempt to seize Ciudad Antigua, as well as fighting in various sectors of Nueva Segovia Department in the border region, were reported in Managua last night.

A Sandinist military spokesman disclosed that Ciudad Antigua militiamen repelled the attack carried out by a counterrevolutionary group that was trying to capture the town. He also reported that approximately 600 counterrevolutionaries are active in northern Nueva Segovia on the borderwith Honduras, and that the Sandinist forces killed 65 contras in various clashes.

The Sandinist military spokesman noted that the most important clash thus far occurred on El Penon Hill. The counterrevolutionary forces have failed in their repeated attempts to take over several Nicaraguan towns near the border with Honduras.

Additional Havana Report

PA050044 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Commander Juan Lorenzo Santana, Nueva Segovia Department military chief, has asserted that militiamen of Ciudad Antigua repelled an attack by some 40 former Somozist guards attempting to take this village of about 2,000 residents.

Santana said that another clash occurred in the nearby Las Marinas area north of Ocotal, the Nueva Segovia Department capital, and that some 600 counterrevolutionaries are operating in the northern area of the department within an area bounded by Jalapa, Ciudad Sandino, Murra, Quilali, and the Honduran border.

In addition, Nicaraguan military sources said that Sandinist People's Army's operations have continued in Nueva Segovia, where heavy clashes are expected in the next few hours, even including attempts to take Ciudad Sandino or another city.

VOICE OF SANDINO SAYS ARMY ENTERED COSTA RICA

PA041750 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] [Nicaraguan Defense Minister] Humberto Ortega's threats to invade Costa Rica, made late last year, came true yesterday when columns of Cuban mercenaries and members of Managua's genocidal Army entered deep into Costa Rican territory.

Enrique Chacon, Costa Rica's deputy government minister, confirmed the report, and added that a Civil Guard contingent was on its way to the area to recover the occupied territory. He also reported that approximately 1,000 invading troops crossed the San Juan River in a desperate and suicidal attempt to (?overtake) freedom forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, who fight in Nicaragua under the expert leadership of Commander Eden Pastora Gomez. The deputy minister said that the situation is quite serious. Many grenades and howitzer shells have fallen near the (Piricias) rural post, forcing us to evacuate the civilian population, he added.

This action is undoubtedly one more of the many fits of criminal schizophrenia and disrespect for territorial sovereignty with which the nine madmen of the ill-named National Directorate jeopardize the Nicaraguan people's relations with their Costa Rican neighbors and brothers. It is also a blatant provocation so that the invasion so fervently desired by those psychopaths may take place in order to provoke a Vietnam-style world holocaust in Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan brothers: How long will we continue to be victims of those despicable individuals? When will the entire people unite to expel them from the government? It is our duty to step them. Let us unite for freedom!

CASTRO, MARCHAIS SIGN JOINT C.A. POLICY STATEMENT

FL041608 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The joint statement signed by Fidel Castro and George Marchais, first secretary of the French Communist Party [PCF], was made public after the visit by the communist leader. The document states that for both Marchais and Fidel, a distinguishing feature of the regional situation is the strength of the desire for liberty and the development of the peoples liberation movements. They also stated that this oft-expressed desire defies U.S. efforts to oppose by all means possible, including armed intervention, all movements for emancipation.

The joint statement states that forces exist that can cause the failure of Reagan's bellicose policies, which are imbued with threats to peace, provided that all men who love peace, justice, and liberty actively unite.

In the statement, the PCF and the PCC reiterated their support for the Nicaraguan Government's constructive and firm stance, and for the position on political dialogue formulated by the FMLN and FDR of El Salvador. If these regional conflicts remain unresolved, peace cannot be achieved through the Contadora Group's efforts.

The joint declaration states that in supporting the firm resolve of the Cuban people to defend their revolution and their independence, George Marchais reaffirms the French communists' position of remaining always at their side.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NICARAGUA

FL041408 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, was an honarary signatory of the final minutes of the fifth session of the Joint Commission for Cuban-Nicaraguan Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

During the talks, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and trust characteristic of relations between the two countries, it was noted that the bilateral program for 1983 was 95 percent completed, with successes achieved in the sectors of education, health, construction, agriculture, and industry, and in the training of military officers and noncommissioned officers.

Last year, hundreds of Nicaraguan young people graduated from Cuban education centers as mid-level technicians and skilled workers. Others graduated from institutions of higher education.

Both delegations noted the increasing development of cooperation during the past 4 years, concluding that the fifth program, covering 1984, should take the form of a quality effort aimed at the strategic objectives of the Nicaraguan economy, in view of its current situation of imperialist aggression and blockade.

The minutes of the Cuban-Nicaraguan Cooperation Commission were signed in the heroic city of Santiago de Cuba by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, member of the National Directorate of the FSLN, and by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

COMMENTARY NOTES SALVADORAN REBEL ACTIONS

PA050333 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 4 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] The FMLN of El Salvador ended 1983 and began 1984 with two important actions against the forces of the Salvadoran military regime: the attack on and occupation and destruction of the El Paraiso general headquarters, seat of the 4th Infantry Brigade, and the dynamiting of the Cuscatlan Bridge over the Lempa River.

Referring to these two important actions on the part of the FMLN, the French daily L'HUMANITE said it was the greatest military feat on the part of the Salvadoran patriots since guerrilla operations began.

Another French paper, LIBERATION, noted that the occupation of one of the most heavily fortified military bases in the country illustrated the military might the Salvadoran guerrilla movement has attained.

Reports from Western news agencies affirmed that the Cuscatlan Bridge, now a pile of twisted metal, has been one of the most guarded points on the Panamerican Highway since the guerrillas blew up the Oro Bridge over the coastal route in 1980. At that time, the Oro Bridge was the most important land connection with the departments of Usulutan, La Union, San Miguel, and Morazan.

According to Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, these actions, particularly the attack on and destruction of the El Paraiso general headquarters, mark the beginning of a new phase of the rebel offensive, known as "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory!"

PRESENCE OF TROOPS IN ANGOLA DISCUSSED, DEFENDED

PA041448 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] On many occasions the highest-ranking Cuban leaders have asserted that Cuba's foreign policy, regardless of the area of the world in question, is aimed at strengthening peace, consolidating the national independence of the various peoples, and contributing to their development. This is the case in Africa, too.

Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez recently told the Soviet news agency TASS that both the Angolan and Cuban Governments have explained that the presence of Cuban soldiers there is intended only to defend that country from South African aggression.

Thus, the Cuban leader stressed, as long as Angola is threatened with aggression, Cuba will maintain its military presence there.

Rodriguez said that the African countries, and more recently the international community, through the United Nations, have stressed that the U.S. efforts to compare Cuba's presence in Angola with that of South Africa in Namibia flagrantly contradict international law. They explained that the Cubans are in Angola legally, at the request of the government in Luanda, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. Rodriguez said that on the other hand, the South African troops currently in Namibia violate this and other articles of the UN Charter.

He said further that Cuba is willing to examine the possibility of withdrawing its troops from Angola once Namibia is granted full national independence and is freed of the troops that currently occupy it. In this regard, he noted, Cuba fully respects the position of the Angolan Government.

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT SENDS ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

PA040210 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos sent a congratulatory message to Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. In his message, Dos Santos points to the victories of the Cuban people in all aspects of national life, as well as to their profound solidarity and international spirit, which have earned them respect and admiration throughout the world.

SOVIET MINISTER OF CULTURE, DELEGATION VISIT

FL041926 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Petr Demichev, member of the CPSU Politburo and minister of culture of the USSR, heads a delegation which left the Soviet Union for a visit to Havana. The delegation was invited by the party leadership and the Government of Cuba.

Demichev and those who accompany him will participate in the unveiling ceremony of a monument to Lenin built in the Havana city park that bears his name.

Among the members of the delegation are Valentina Tereshkova, chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, and Pyatras Grishkyavichus, first secretary of the Communist Party of Lithuania.

Moscow Reports Visit

For Soviet reportage on the visit of Soviet Minister of Culture Petr Demichev to Havana, including his arrival and welcome by Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Political Bureau of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Cuban Council of State, and Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Political Bureau of the PCC Central Committee and Cuban minister of culture, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 5 January and subsequent issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

VISIT BY SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCED

FL042004 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] At the invitation of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Fernando Moran Lopez, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, will arrive early tomorrow.

The Spanish delegation is composed of Spanish Ambassador to Cuba Enrique Larroque, Jose L. Vicente, director of the Cabinet of Ministers, and Javier (Sandelino), director of bilateral affairs.

CANADIAN FISHERIES MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT

FL041442 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Pierre DeBane has arrived in Havana accompanied by officials from that ministry.

DeBane was officially invited by our government. Cuba's Minister of the Fishing Industry Jorge Fernandez Cuervo visited Canada in October 1982.

During this visit, the 1984 annual bilateral consultation meeting between Cuba and Canada on cooperation in the field of fishing will take place.

Cited on Bilateral Relations

PA040445 Paris AFP in Spanish 2358 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Havana, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Canadian Fisheries and Oceans Minister Pierre DeBane arrived here today on an official visit of several days at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart, Jorge Fernandez Cuervo.

Upon arrival, DeBane noted the "exemplary" relations that exist between the two countries in matters concerning fisheries. "Cuba," the minister noted, "is one of Canada's most important commercial partners in Latin America."

Canada and Cuba signed a comprehensive fishing agreement in 1977, renewable each year, intended to establish the quotas authorized for Cuban boats fishing in Canadian territorial waters.

BRIEFS

NEW SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR -- The Council of State has designated Comrade Olga Chamero Trias as Cuban ambassador to Sri Lanka. At the time of her designation, Comrade Chamero Trias was serving as department chief in the Directorate of Asia and Oceania in the Ministry of Foreign Relations. [Summary] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84 FL]

PRESIDENT JORGE BLANCO NOTES 1983 ACHIEVEMENTS

FL042001 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Excerpts] President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday said that although 1983 was a trying year, the government made various achievements. He highlighted the decrease in the deficit and the improvement in tax revenues. The president said that in addition to improving customs and tax revenues, "we have greatly eliminated contraband, which was affecting the country and was resulting in unfair competition."

The government [as published] broadly commented on the latest government economic measures and stressed that although they are not popular now, they will render beneficial results for the nation in the future. "Our country, as a result of the international crisis affecting all countries of the various areas and continents -- particularly the developing ones, such as the Dominican Republic -- is also hurt by it. But we also have our own domestic problems which, together with the external ones, result in the economic crisis we are experiencing," the statesman added. He noted that "we only have to point out that our main import is oil and that the price of it has been very high in the past few years."

He remarked that our country's traditional exports, such as sugar, coffee, cacao, and tobacco, but particularly sugar, have recently had very low prices, way under production costs. He added: "Therefore our exports did not yield a normal foreign exchange revenue in previous years and all of this is producing a great imbalance in the balance of payments."

PLD REORGANIZES GENERAL SECRETARIAT, COMMITTEE

FL041836 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Saul Pimentel]

[Excerpt] On the night of December 22 the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) appointed Lidio Cadet, former priest and professor, as the new PLD secretary general, replacing Rafael Alburquerque. The top PLD leadership headed by former President Juan Bosch also elected Gustavo Montalvo and Danilo Medina as assistant secretaries, replacing Juan de la Cruz Buret and Casimiro Montilla.

The reorganization of the PLD secretariat was made during a meeting conducted by Bosch at the PLD national headquarters the night before last. A brief press bulletin issued by the PLD Press and Propaganda Secretariat and signed by Euclides Gutierrez, its chief, reported the reorganization and noted that it was carried out "because it was the end of the year."

Alburquerque went from the General Secretariat to a post as a member of the party's Central Committee, an organization that was increased to nine members.

Nelsida Marmolejos, who heads one of the groups that is fighting over control of the Workers General Federation [Central General de Trabajadores -- CGT] was also elected a member of the Central Committee.

OECS MEETING SET FOR 13 JANUARY IN GRENADA

FL041456 Bridgetown CANA in English 1424 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 4 (CANA) -- Heads of government of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) will meet in Grenada on January 13, Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles announced today.

Miss Charles, current chairperson of the subregional grouping, told reporters that the St George's meeting had been requested by the ruling interim Advisory Council.

She said that the main talking point will be the question of security on the island when American and Caribbean peacekeeping forces leave.

Sources said the OECS summit will specifically be looking at ways of reorganising Grenada's police force in the aftermath of October's political upheaval.

At the request of the OECS, U.S.-led forces invaded Grenada last October 25 to oust the Army which had taken power in a violent coup.

Diplomatic sources here had earlier said the meeting between the Advisory Council and the OECS heads of government would have been held during the regular summit in St Lucia at the end of the month. But Miss Charles said that a separate meeting had to be called to discuss the security arrangements for the island.

TRINIDADIAN NAMED CARICOM DEPUTY SECRETARY

FL041232 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] A Trinidad-born civil servant has been named deputy secretary of the Caribbean Community at Caricom Headquarters in Guyana. Forty-seven-year-old (Lewis Arlington Wilshire), currently at the Trinidad Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will assume his new Caricom duties later this month.

ANTIGUA

RAMPHAL SAYS STAGE SET FOR AID TO GRENADA

FL040230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2312 GMT 3 Jan 84

[By Louis Daniel]

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Jan 3 (CANA) -- Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal flies to Grenada tomorrow convinced that the island, now recovering from the trauma of a coup last October and subsequent military invasion to restore order, could look forward to ample rehabilitation aid from the Commonwealth.

Ramphal, who passed through here on his way to St George's for official talks at the invitation of the interim government there, said last November's Commonwealth heads of government summit in India had set the stage for a positive response to any Grenada request for economic aid.

The communique coming out of the New Delhi meeting set up the framework by which the Commonwealth in its collective capacity would be willing to assist in the process of construction and rehabilitation, Ramphal said. Added the former Guyana foreign minister: "Grenada has gone through a long night and we are talking about ways in which we can help it emerge into a real dawn."

Ramphal, who has already discussed the Grenada situation with heads of government in Bahamas, Antigua-Barbuda, and Dominica, said the Delhi summit had also produced a framework in which the Commonwealth could help to heal the wounds of Grenada and the scars in the region, and that's quite a high service.

Relations between some Caribbean Community member countries -- Guyana and Dominica in one instance, and Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in another -- have become strained over the October 25 U.S.-led intervention that ousted the military junta that had seized power, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet.

Ramphal remarked that Grenada's caretaker government recognised a measure of urgency in the need to put the country back on its feet, and "I am sure this lay behind their own encouragement that I should come down now and talk with them quickly about what can be done."

Rehabilitating Grenada is going to involve a considerable amount of hard work, of resources, personnel, skill, talent, and vision, "assembled from around the Commonwealth, and essentially from around the Caribbean, from among West Indians brought together (and) put to work in the interest of Grenada and Grenadians."

BAHAMAS

CORRUPTION, DRUG SMUGGLING COMMISSION RECONVENES

FL050215 Bridgetown CANA in English 2232 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 4 (CANA) -- A full-scale commission of enquiry into alleged political corruption and drug smuggling here has begun uncovering a lot about the financial and other dealings of people in high places in the Bahamas. And the prime minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, has acknowledged to owning shares in private businesses, at least one of which did business with the government on one occasion some time ago.

Youth Minister Kendal Nottage has given a similar story, one so-called "secret" witness has given actual instances of illicit drug deals, and big names like fugitive American financier, Robert Vesco, are being called.

The enquiry opened on December 10 following allegations broadcast by an American TV network that the Pindling government was riddled with corruption.

The NBC report had alleged that Pindling and other government officials were receiving bribes -- as much as 100,000 dollars (U.S.) a month -- to facilitate the movement of U.S.-bound drugs through this chain of 700 islands, a stone's throw away from the U.S. mainland.

Pindling was among government officials appearing before the investigating panel before hearings took a break for the Christmas holidays on December 16. Sittings were expected to resume today.

Nottage To Testify

FL041652 Bridgetown CANA in English 1555 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 4 (CANA) -- A commission of enquiry probing allegations of political corruption and drug smuggling in the Bahamas reopens today after the Christmas recess, with Cabinet minister Kendal Nottage expected to testify about his business affairs.

The minister of youth has been asked by chief counsel for the commission Robert Ellicott, Q.C. to submit his personal financial statements and any documents that would indicate his financial position.

Just before Christmas, Nottage was questioned by the commission about the formation of his law office and his interest in a business called Columbus Trust. Nottage was also questioned about the privately-owned Kwin Aircraft Corporation, of which he said he was at one time the major shareholder. He told of Kwin purchasing, at public auction, a drug plane seized by the Customs Department for 65,000 dollars (U.S.).

Ellicott asked Nottage whether he felt that it was appropriate that he, as a government minister, should be involved in buying an aircraft from a government agency. Nottage said he did not see it in the same light as Ellicott.

Ellicott then referred Nottage to the provisions of the Bahamas Constitution on conflict of interest, to which Nottage said he felt these referred only to an ongoing contract between persons in government and government agencies. He did not think that the purchase of an aircraft was an ongoing contract.

Ellicott, [as received] under further questioning, acknowledged that shares were being held in Kwin Air for Prime Minister Lynden Pindling.

The enquiry follows allegations by a U.S. television network last September that Prime Minister Pindling and Nottage were among government officials taking bribes from international drug smugglers.

BARBADOS

LINE OF CREDIT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CANADA

FL042356 Bridgetown CANA in English 2347 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 4 (CANA) -- Canada will extend a six-million-(Can) dollar line of credit to Barbados under an agreement to be signed between the two countries on Monday, it was announced here today.

A statement from the Government Information Service (GIS) said the interest-free loan will go toward the purchase of Canadian petroleum products and equipment by the Barbados National Oil Company.

The agreement will be signed by Barbados Minister of Energy Senator Clyde Griffith and Minister for External Relations of Canada Jean-Luc Pepin, who begins a three-nation tour of the Caribbean tomorrow with a stop at St Lucia.

Pepin flies to Barbados on Sunday for a four-day visit and will leave on Wednesday for Port of Spain. Canadian sources said he will discuss Grenada, where U.S. troops invaded last December [as received], and ongoing Canadian development assistance with leaders of the three states.

JAMAICA

SEAGA VOWS TO RID KINGSTON OF BAND OF CRIMINALS

FL042348 Bridgetown CANA in English 2341 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 4 (CANA) -- The Jamaica Government today condemned a new outbreak of violence in a rundown section of the capital, Kingston, and vowed to rid the area of the "band of criminals" who shot dead a police constable and his pregnant girlfriend this morning.

"I have given instructions that no efforts are to be spared in dealing with the band of criminals known to operate in this location, who have in the past plagued the area," declared Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

The area, in Seaga's West Kingston constituency, has since yesterday been the scene of gun violence. Seaga said in fact that the killing of the couple today occurred only two blocks away from where "a valuable member of my constituency" also died from gunshot on Tuesday.

The prime minister appeared to be imputing political motives for the violence, noting that "on election day, 1980, in this same area, over 2,000 rounds were fired at a school housing polling stations in which I was present."

Seaga described the killing of the off-duty policeman, Albert Thompson, and his girlfriend, Esme Thompson, "as an act of bestiality and cowardice" and said that their families as well as that of his slain constituency worker "can rest assured" that there would be a cleanup of "that criminal den."

Police along with soldiers today stepped up patrols in the downtown ghetto areas and nearby Central Kingston.

BRAZIL

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT SURINAME 26-27 JAN

PY240044 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas today announced that Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro will pay an official visit to Suriname on 26-27 January 1984.

This will be Saraiva's second official visit to that country. His first visit took place in January 1982.

ECUADOR

HAVANA CITES PRESIDENT HURTADO ON RELATIONS

PA040348 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Ecuadoran President Oswaldo Hurtado has announced in Guayaquil that his country will soon renew diplomatic relations with Cuba at the ambassadorial level. Relations have been kept at the charge d'affaires level since 1981.

Hurtado pointed out that in his meeting last month with the vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, he had expressed his government's intention to normalize bilateral relations.

Relations between the two countries dropped to the charge d'affaires level as a result of the occupation of the Ecuadoran diplomatic mission in Havana by a group of anti-socials who kidnapped the ambassador, Jorge Perez Chacon, and other embassy officials.

It was later fully confirmed that the action had been promoted and prepared by a Portuguese diplomat working for the CIA.

SALES PROBLEMS LEAD TO SEARCH FOR OIL MARKETS

PA041830 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Serious problems exist in the marketing of Ecuadoran oil, 2 million barrels of which are being sold on the spot market. Fifty percent of the exportable oil production has not been placed under long-term contracts, with only 66,000 barrels per day remaining under such long-term contracts. Markets are currently being sought for an additional 55,000 barrels, as two more companies are withdrawing because they do not accept the new price of $27.50.

According to Patricio Ribadeneira, general manager of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, they are trying to place in the long-term market the daily 55,000-barrel surplus that resulted after the new crude oil price of $27.50 went into effect on 1 January.